

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 888 STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, N.J., ON JUNE 13, 2013

Mayor Ronald Bassani called the meeting to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Committeeman William Gaechter, and Committeeman William DeBoer. The following members were absent: None

Mayor Bassani stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Laws 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and posted to the public, and certified by the Clerk."

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Bassani invited all persons present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested that the governing body Review the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the following Reports for Filing:

- Registrar Report for May 2013
- Construction Report for May 2013
- Tax Collector Report for May 2013
- Board of Health Report for May 2013
- Municipal Clerk Report for May 2013
- Recycling Tonnage Report of Wantage Township for the year 2012

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Raffle License RL13-12, to Friends of Lake Neepaulin to conduct a calendar raffle on various dates during the months of July, August and September.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the refund of \$215.00 to Ample Permitting Service, to reimburse building permit fee on abandoned project at Block 15.09 Lot 12

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the refund of:

- \$2,875.00 to Christie development, LLC, for completion of Driveway Bond D-11-05 on Block 12.01 Lot 3.04
- \$2,502.75 to Wantage Excavating Co., for completion of work on Block 125 Lot 4.01 regarding Road Bond E-11-01

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mr. Gaechter moved to acknowledge notification from the Heritage and Agriculture Association, Inc, for holding a 5K Race as a fund raiser for Lusscroft, to be held September 14, 2013.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve change Order #1 to the Contract entitled "Rental of Grader and Roller with Operator for Holland Road – Section II by reducing the contract \$4,297.36 based on adjusted line item costs incurred during the contract.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Administrator's Report

Mr. Doherty reviewed several issues which had been placed in the "Pending Status" folder with the governing body, asking if any action was desired at this time.

Regarding the issue of **Encroachment upon municipally owned property along Lake Neepaulin on South Shore Drive**, the members of the governing body agreed to review their file material and make a site inspection for further consideration to take place at the next meeting.

Regarding the request for consideration of **Vacating a portion of unimproved road between Route 23 and Mudtown Road**, the members of the governing body reached consensus to agree with the positions of the 2004 and 2009 governing bodies, and retain this parcel as an abandoned but not vacated street.

Regarding the **Suggestion for renovating and Deed-restricting Block 117 Lot 17** as a COAH-eligible affordable housing unit, the governing body chose to retire this concept with no action at this time, reserving the right to revisit the concept in the future if deemed to be appropriate.

Regarding the proposed **Tree Removal Policy** for felled trees on municipally owned lots resulting from storm activity, the governing body retired this concept with no action.

Regarding the suggestion of **Limiting the Number of Peddler Permits allowed in the Township** at any given time, the members of the governing body requested Mr. Garofalo present some suggestions and examples of such legislation from other communities, at the next meeting.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Garofalo reported on the status of the State's efforts to claim unused local COAH developer fees from municipalities.

Township Committee Member Reports

Mr. Gaechter and Mr. DeBoer offered congratulations to Mayor Bassani on his Primary Election victory. Mayor Bassani thanked Mr. Gaechter and Mr. DeBoer for their kind words.

Mayor Bassani reported that the Reassessment Newsletter has been mailed, and commented that it was apparent to him from recent interactions with members of the public that there is some significant level of misunderstanding and misrepresentation going on around town regarding the details of the special assessment issue in Lake Neepaulin. Mayor Bassani indicated a desire to utilize the Township website more effectively and to a greater degree in the future as a tool for educating and communicating with the public. Mayor Bassani also mentioned that the County would be holding a Complete Streets Study meeting next week. Mr. Doherty indicated he would be attending this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Soil Removal Permit Renewals

General review on the status of the 284 Aggregates site and the Bicsak site took place. Mr. Doherty detailed items the applicants needed to address in order for their applications for license renewal to be given consideration by the governing body. No action took place at this time.

Volcanic Hill Road Petition

General review and discussion took place regarding a Petition submitted from various property owners of Volcanic Hill Road, requesting the Township commence the process of accepting Volcanic Hill Road as a public street. Mr. Doherty and Mr. Garofalo explained various procedural steps involved in this process, the first being for the governing body to determine if indeed they wish to accept the road as a public street. After general discussion, no action was taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Ordinance 2013-08

Mr. DeBoer moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2013-08, entitled “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN LANDS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE TO BE SOLD AT PRIVATE SALE IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5).” with a public hearing date scheduled for July 11, 2013.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: DeBoer, Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 2013.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public at this time, for any questions or comments involving the good and welfare of the community.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, inquired regarding details about the mailing of newsletters and calendars to the general public. Mr. Doherty responded to this inquiry.

Mrs. Smulewicz offered congratulations to Mayor Bassani for winning the Primary Election, offering comments of praise regarding several individuals who publicly supported Mr. Bassani.

Mayor Bassani thanked Mrs. Smulewicz for her kind words, and stated that there were a number of people working behind the scenes who may not have publicized their support in the media, but whose support was also invaluable to him during his campaign.

Mr. Jack Hingel of Clove Hill Manor, and Mrs. Kathy Gorman of Fernwood Road, also offered statement of congratulations to Mayor Bassani. Mayor Bassani thanked these individuals for their kind words.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor Bassani closed the meeting to the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. DeBoer moved to enter into closed executive session, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and
WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matter(s):
Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege: Negotiations with the Public works Department regarding terms and conditions of retirement for a DPW employee.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Minutes will be kept on file in the municipal clerk’s office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: DeBoer, Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

After meeting in closed executive session, Mayor Bassani declared the meeting to be reconvened and the members of the governing body returned to the regular order of business.

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Mr. DeBoer moved to accept, with regrets, the letter of retirement from DPW Employee Bob Crum effective 12/31/13; to accept the employee's proposal for withdrawing from the Township's health benefits plan effective 7/1/13 in exchange for half of the negotiated incentive offered to employees for a full year of such health benefit withdrawal; and to decline to provide a stipend after retirement as requested. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call, Ayes: DeBoer, Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for the attention of the governing body, Mr. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call, Ayes: DeBoer, Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator Clerk